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FM AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9192
C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 3 GEORGETOWN 3924
E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: CASC AINF OREP GY
SUBJECT: CONGRESSIONAL INVESTIGATION: CODEL RYAN — PEOPLES TEMPLE
REF: STATE 296009

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY John Simms DATE 2-26-81
PORTIONS DENIED AS INDICATED

1. EMBASSY INPUTS TO ASSIST DEPARTMENT IN REPLYING TO QUESTIONS INCONGRESSMAN ZABLOCKI'S LETTER OF NOVEMBER 21TO SECRETARY ARE AS FOLLOS (NUMBERS KEYED TO CHAIRMAN'S QUESTIONS):
(1) THE EMBASSY IN GEORGETOWN WAS NOT OF THE OPINION THAT CONGRESSMAN LEO RYAN AND HIS PARTY WOULD BE IN PHYSICAL DANGER DURING A VISIT TO THE PEOPLE'S TEMPLE AGRICULTURAL MISSION AT JONESTOWN AS LONG AS PRIOR PERMISSION FOR THE VISIT HAD BEEN SECRURED IN ADVANCE FROM THE PEOPLE TEMPLE. THIS POINT WAS MADE IN THE EMBASSY'S FIRST CABLE DEALING WITH THE PROS-PCT OF A CODEL VISIT AND WAS REITERATED SEVERAL TIMES THERE-AFTER BOTH IN WRITTEN FORMAND ORALLY TO THE CONGRESSMAN AND HIS STAFF. IT WAS CLEARLY IMPLIED THAT SHOULD THE CONGRESSMAN ATTEMPT TO FORCE ENTRY INTO JONESTOWN, UNFORTUNATE CONSEQUENCESCOULD FOLLOW WHICH MIGHT BE LEGAL OR EVEN VIOLENT. AS HAS ALREADY BEEN MADE CLEAR THERE HAD BEEN SEVERAL VISITS TO JONESTOWN BY AMERICAN OFFICIAL S GOING BACK FOR AT LEAST THE LAST TWO AND ONE/HALF YEARS. THESE VISITS HAD INVARIABLY BEEN PEACEFUL.FURTHERMORE, THE PEOPLES TEMPLE COMMUNITY HAD RECTIVED VISITS BY MANY
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OTHER OUTSIDERS, SUCH AS GUYANA GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS, FOREIGN DIPLOMATS,AND PRIVATE CITIZENS,WITHOUT REPORTED INCIDENT. FOR EXAMPLE, THE LT GOVERNOR OF CALIFORNIA IS KNOW TO HAVE VISITED THE TEMPLE ON AT LEAST ONE OCCASION, AS WELL AS CABINE MEMBERS FROM THE GUG AND THIRD COUNTRY DIPLOMATS.
(2) THE ADVICE GIVEN TO THE CODEL FROM THE FIRST MOMENT THAT THE EMBASSY WAS APPRISED OF CONGRESSMAN RYAN'S TRIP TO GUYANA FOR THE PURPOSE OF VISITING JONESTOWN WAS CANDID AND COMPLETE. IT WAS WELL-KNOW THAT THE PEOPLES TEMPLE WAS SENSITIVE TO CRITICISM WHICH HAD APPEARED IN CERTAIN QUARTERS WITHIN THE UNITED STATES REGARDING ITS ACTIVITIES. THE REACTION OF THE TEMPLE WAS CLEARLY EVIDENT IN MANY PUBLIC PRONOUNCEMENTS BY PEOPLES TEMPLE MEMBERS AND OTHER SPOKESMEN, MOST RECENTLY IN A PRESS CONFERENCE GIVEN BY ONE OF ITS

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LAWYERS. MR MARK LANE, ON A VISIT TO GEORGETOWN. THIS PREPS CONFERENCE WAS REPORTED ON FULLY TO THE DEPARTMENT BY CABLE FROM THE EMBASSY IN GEORGETOWN WITH THE ADVICE THAT THESE REPORTS BE MADE DIRECTLY AVAILABLE TO CONGRESSMAN RYAN. IT WAS BECAUSE OF THIS GENERALLY WELL-KNOW MOOD OR ATTITUDE TOWARD CRITICISM THAT THE EMBASSY WAS SO INSISTENT THAT THE CODEL OBTAIN DIRECTLY FROM THE PEOPLES TEMPLE AN AGREEMENT TO RECEIVE THE CONGRESSMAN BEFORE ATTEMPTING ANY TRIP TO JONESTOWN. INSOFAR AS THE PRESENCE OF WEAPONS WAS CONCERNED,THE EMBASSY HAD NO HARD EVIDENCE THAT THERE WERE EXCEPTIONAL STORES OF WEAPONS IN THE COMMUNITY. IT WAS, OF COURSE, KNOWN THAT THE COMMUNITY DID POSSESS A CERTAIN NUMBER OF FIREARMS, BUT THIS IS NOT UNCOMMON IN THE PARTICULAR PART OF GUYANA IN WHICH JONESTOWN IS LOCATED. THE NORTHWEST REGION OF

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GUYANA OFFERS MANY OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE HUNTING OF WILD GAME AND THE EMBASSY HAD BEEN TOLD BY THE PEOPLES TEMPLE THAT A PORTION OF THE COMMUNITY'S MEAT SUPPLY WAS OBTAINED BY HUNTING.

(3) THE EMBASSY DID NOT REQUEST THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF GUYANA PROVIDE THE CODEL WITH SECURTY PROTECTION OR OTHER ASSISTANCE, NOR DID THE CODEL RAISE THE SUBJECT OF SECURITY PROTECTION.IT WAS FELT THAT AS LONG AS THE CODEL HAD THE PRIOR AGREEMENT OF THE JONESTOWN COMMUNITY TO A VISIT THERE WAS NO NEED FOR SUCH PROTECTION IN VIEW OF THE FACT THAT SO MANY OTHER OUTSIDERS HAD PREVIOULSY VISITED THE COMMUNITY WITHOUT INCIDENT. AS A MATTER OF COURSESY, THE GOVERNMENT WAS INFORMED OF THE CODEL VISIT WELL IN ADVANCE OF THE CONGRESSMAN'S ARRIVAL AND THE FOREIGN MINISTER OF GUYANA RECEIVED CONGRESSMAN RYAN FOR AN HOURLONG MEETING THE DAY AFTER HIS ARRIVAL IN GEORGETOWN. THE FOREIGN MINISTER WAS MOST CORDIAL IN HIS RECEPTION OF THE CONGRESSMAN, AND, IN FACT THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER IN GUYANA ASKED FOR AN APPOINTENT WITH THE CONGRESSMAN PRIOR TO HIS DEPARTURE AND HAD ACTUALLY SCHEDULED AN APPOINTMENT WITH HIM FOR THE MORNING OF NOV 19.(THE CODEL'S ORIGINAL INTENTION WAS TO DEPART GUYANA ON THE AFTER-NOON OF NOV 19). IN HIS MEETING WITH THE FOREIGN MINISTER CONGRESSMAN RYAN MADE BRIEF MENTION OF THE PURPOSE OF HIS VISIT, BUT MADE NO REQUEST FOR SECURITY AND, IN FACT, SPENT MOST OF THE HOUR WITH THE FOREIGN MINISTER DISCUSSING BILATERAL AND INTERNATIONAL ISSUES. FOR ITS PART, THE GOG SENT ALONG WITH THE CODEL ON ITS VISIT TO JONESTOWN AN OFFICIAL FROM ITS MINISTRY OF INFORAMTION (NEVILLE ANNIBOURNE) WHO WAS WITH THE CONGRESSMAN DURING HIS ENTIRE TIME IN THE

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JONESTOWN COMMUNITY. THIS OFFICER ACCOMPANIED THE
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CODEL INTO JONESTOWN, SPENT THE NIGHT THERE, AND LEFT
WITH THE CODEL FOR THE AIRSTRIP THE FOLLOWING DAY.
HAD SECURITY PROTECTION BEEN REQUESTED FROM THE GOG
FOR THE CODEL, IT WOULD VERY LIKELY HAVE BEEN PROVIDED
THROUGH THE GOG. GOG OFF HAVE EXPRESSED SOME SURPRISE AS
TO WHY PROTECTION WAS NEEDED TO ENABLE AN AMERICAN
CONGRESSMAN TO MEET WITH AMERICAN CITIZENS.
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IT SHOULD ALSO BE RECALLED THAT THE CODEL
TRAVELED TO PORT KAITUMA FROM GEORGETOWN IN COMPANY
WITH TWO AMERICAN LAWYERS WHO WERE LEGAL REPRESENATIGES
OF BISHOP JONES AND THE PEOPLES TEMPLE. IN FACT, THESE
TWO ATTORNEYS WENT INTO JONESTOWN IN COMPANY WITH
CONGRESSMAN RYAN IN ORDER TO NEGOTIATE THE TERMS
OF ENTRY FOR THE PRESS AND "CONCERNED RELATIVES"
GROUP ACCOMPANYING THE TO PORT KAITUMA.
THESE MEN, WHO HAD VISITED JONESTOWN IN THE PAST, WERE
PRESENT AT JONESTOWN FOR THE ENTIRE PERIOD OF THE
CODEL'S VISIT TO THE AGRICULTURAL SETTLEMENT. THEIR
PRESENCE APPEARED TO PROVIDE YET AN ADDITIONAL GUARTANTEE
THAT THE VISIT BY CONGRESSMAN RYAN WOULD BE WITHOUT
VIOLENCE.
(4) WELL IN ADVANCE OF THE CODEL'S ARRIVAL IN
GEORGETOWN IT WAS EXPLAINTED TO THE CONGRESSMAN AND
HIS STAFF THAT CATIONS BETWEEN GEORGETOWN AND
PORT KAITUMA WERE PRIMITIVE AT BEST. IT WAS FURTHER
EXPLAINED THAT THE ONLY COMMUNICATIONS BETWEEN
GEORGETOWN AND JONESTOWN WERE IN THE FORM OF AN
AMATEUR RADIO LINK BETWEEN THE COMMUNITY AND ITS
GEORGETOWN OFFICE. NO SPECIAL COMMUNICATIONS ARRANGEMENTS
WERE MADE FOR THE RYAN DELEGATION NOR WERE THEY
REQUESTED BY THE CODEL. HOWEVER, ON THE AFTERNOON
OF FRIDAY, NOV 17, WHEN THE CODEL WAS ON ITS WAY INTO
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JONETOWN, THE CONSUL WENT TO THE GEORGETOWN OFFICE
OF THE PEOPLES TEMPLE AND USED THEIR SHORTWAVE
FACILITIES TO CONFIRM THAT THE CONGRESSMAN AND HIS
PARTY HAD BEEN ADMITTED TO JONESTOWN AND THAT THINGS
WERE "GOING WELL". THE EMBASSY WAS INFORMED THROUGH
THIS CHANNEL THAT DUE TO ITS LATE ARRIVAL AT PORT
KAITUMAN THE CODEL HAD ACCEPTED AN INVITATION TO STAY
OVERNIGHT AT JONESTOWN. DURING THESE TRANSMISSIONS
OVER THE SHORTWAVE LINK, OUR CONSUL SPOKE DIRECTLY
WITH DCM DWYER WHO WAS ACCOMPANYING CODEL: THUS, THE
MESSAGES WERE NOT PASSED THROUGH ANY PEOPLES TEMPLE
INTERMEDIARY.
(7) THE EMBASSY IN GEORGETOWN WAS NOT AWARE OF
THE PRESENCE OF EXTENSIVE FIREARMS AND AMMUNITION IN
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JONESTOWN. AS STATED EARLIER, THE COMMUNITY WAS KNOWN TO HAVE A CERTAIN NUMBER OF FIREARMS AS WELL AS BOWS AND ARROWS WHICH THE COMMUNITY EXPLAINED WERE USED FORHUNTING GAME IN THE REGION, A NOT UNCOMMON PRACTICE IN THAT PARTOF GUYANA. ACCORDING TO THE GOG A TOTAL OF FOUR SEPARATE LICENSES HAD BEEN ISSUED TO MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY. IT NOW APPEARS THAT THERE MAY HAVE BEEN AS MANY AS THIRTY MORE WEAPONS WHICH WERE UNLICENSED, BUT THIS NUMBER WAS NOT KNOWN AT THE THE TIME OF THE CODEL VISIT. (IN THIS NATION WHICH HAS SO MUCH JUNGLE AND VIRGIN LAND MANY RESIDENTS POSSESS SPORTING GUNS.)

(9) AMERICAN CITIZENS RESIDENT IN GUYANA ARE SUBJECT TO THE LAWS AND REGULATIONS OF THAT GOVERNMENT JUST AS ARE ALL PRIVATE AMERICAN CITIZENS RESIDING ABROAD IN ANY SOVEREIGN NATION. IT WOULD BE BEYOND THE AUTHORITY OF THE EMBASSY TO INTRUDE ON OR ATTEMPT TO

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EXERCISE COTROL OVER SUCH CITIZENS. ITS ONLY FUNCTION VIS-A-VIS INDIVIDUALS IN THIS CATEGORY INVOLVES THE PROVISION OF CONSULAR SERVICES AND APPROPRIATE PROTECTIONS WHEN CALLED UPON BY THE INDIVIDUALS THEMSELVES.

(10) THE PEOPLES TEMPLE, AS IS WELL-KNOWN, HAS BEEN A SUBJECT OF CONTROVERSY WITHIN THE UNITED STATES AND MAY ARTICLES HAVE APPEARED IN THE PRESS BOTH FAVORABLE TO AND CRITICAL OF THE ORGANIZATION. ARTICLES IN THE LATTER CATEGORY OFTEN CONTAIN LETALLY UN-SBSTANTIATED CHARGES AGAINST THE ORGANIZATION OF WHICH THE EMBASSY IN GEORGETOWN WAS GENERALLY AWARE. THE EMBASSY HAS RECEIVED OVER A PERIOD OF TIME A LARGE AMOUNT OF CORRESPONDECE FROM PRIVATE CITIZENS IN THE US WHICH HAS BEEN STRONGLY SUPPORTIVE OF, AND ON OTHER OCCASIONS HIGHLY CRITICAL OF, THE PEOPLES TEMPLE. THE EMBASSY DID NOT HAVE THE ABILITY TO CON-DUCT ANY SORT OF INVESTIGATION OF THE PEOPLES TEMPLE NOR WOULD IT HAVE BEEN APPROPRIATE OR EVEN LEGAL FOR THE EMBASSY TO ATTEMPT SUCH AN INVESTIGATION IN VIEW OF THE CONSTITUTIONAL SAFEGUARDS AVAILABLE TO AMERICAN CITIZENS. ALL OF THE INFORMATION ON THE PEOPLES TEMPLE AVAILABLE TO THE EMBASSY WAS OF COURSE AVAIALBE TO THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE.

DURING THE TWO DAYS HE WAS IN GEORGETOWN PRIOR TO HIS VISIT TO JONESTOWN. CONGRESSMAN RYAN REVEALED THAT HE HED AN IN-DEPTH KNOWLEDGE OF THE PEOPLES TEMPLE AND ITS ACTIVITIES IN THE US WHICH FAR EXCEEDED ANY SUCH KNOWLEDGE AVAIABLE TO THE EMBASSY IN GEORGETOWN.

(11) INSOFAR AS IS KNOWN TO THE EMBASSY, THE GOG HAS NEVER RECEIVED ANY OFFICIAL REQUEST TO INVESTIGATE THE ACTIVITIES OF THE PEOPLES TEMPLE CHURCH.

II. IN ADDITION TO THE FOREGOING THE EMBASSY HAS THE

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FOLLOWING SUGGESTIONS AS TO POINTS WHICH MIGHT ASSIST
IN PREPARING REPLIES TO SOMEOF THE OTHER QUESTIONS
POSED BY CHAIRMAN ZABLOCKI:
(A) IN PREPARING THE REPLY TO QUESTION 5 DEPARTMENT
SHOULD BE SURE TO REVIEW GEORGETOWN 2087 OF SEPT 1,
1977, REPORTING ON CONSUL MCCOY'S FIRST VISIT TO
JONESTOWN, AND PARTICULARLY THE REFERENCE TO THE FACT
THAT JONES APPARENTLY PAID FOR THE REPATRIATION OF
ONEOF THE JONESTOWN RESIDENTS [redacted] AT THAT TIME. E B6
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(C) IN ITS REVIEW OF THE FILES ON PEOPLES TEMPLE, THE DEPARTMENT SHOULD TAKE PARTICULAR NOTE OF VARIOUS INTERVENTIONS BY ONE JOSEPH A MAZOR, A PROFESSIONAL PRIVATE INVESTIGATOR FROM SAN FRANCISCO. IN 1977 MAZOR HAD SEVERAL CONTACTS WITH THEN CONSUL MCCOY ON BEHALF OF CERTAIN CLIENTS IN CALIFORNIA WHO WERE CONCERNED ABOUT NEXT-OF-KIN AT JONESTOWN. MAZOR CAME TO GUYANA DURING SEPT OF THIS YEAR AND ACTUALLY PAID A VISIT TO JONESTOWN FROM SEPT 11 TO 13. ON HIS RETURN TO GEORGETOWN ENROUTE BACK TO THE US MAJOR MET WITH CONSUL ELLICE AND SHARED WITH HIM HIS IMPRESSIONS OF

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JONESTOWN. THE MEMCON INTERVIEW RESULTING FROM THIS INTERVIEW WILL BE FORWARDED TO THE DEPARTMENT BY SEPTEL. THE MAZOR CASE WOULD APPEAR TO HAVE SOME SIGNIFICANCE BECAUSE OF MAZOR'S PROFESSIONA AND THE FACT THAT HE HAD REPRESENTED NEXT-OF-KIN IN CALIFORNAI WHO WERE QUITE CRITICAL OF THE TEMPLE AND ITS ACTIVITIES.
(D) IN RECORDING EMBASSY GEORGETOWN CONTACTS WITH THE PEOPLES TEMPLE IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT FORMER AMBASSADOR MAX KREBS PAID A VISIT TO JONETOWN IN OCTOBER OF 1975. (THE PRECISE DATE IS UNCERTAIN; HOWEVER, AMBASSADOR KREBS MAY BE ABLE TO REMEMBER IT IF THE DEPARTMENT WERE TO CONTACT HIM AT HIS RETIREMENT ADDRESS.) ON THE BASIS OF CONVERSATIONS HERE, IT IS BELIEVED THAT THE AMBASSADOR AND HIS WIFE MADE A

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VISIT IN COMPANY WITH TWO GUYANESE COUPLES.
EMBASSY HOPES THATTHE FOREGOING INFORMATION WILL
BE OF VALUE IN FRAMING THE DEPARTMENT'S REPLY TO
CONGRESSMAN ZABLOCKI'S LETTER.
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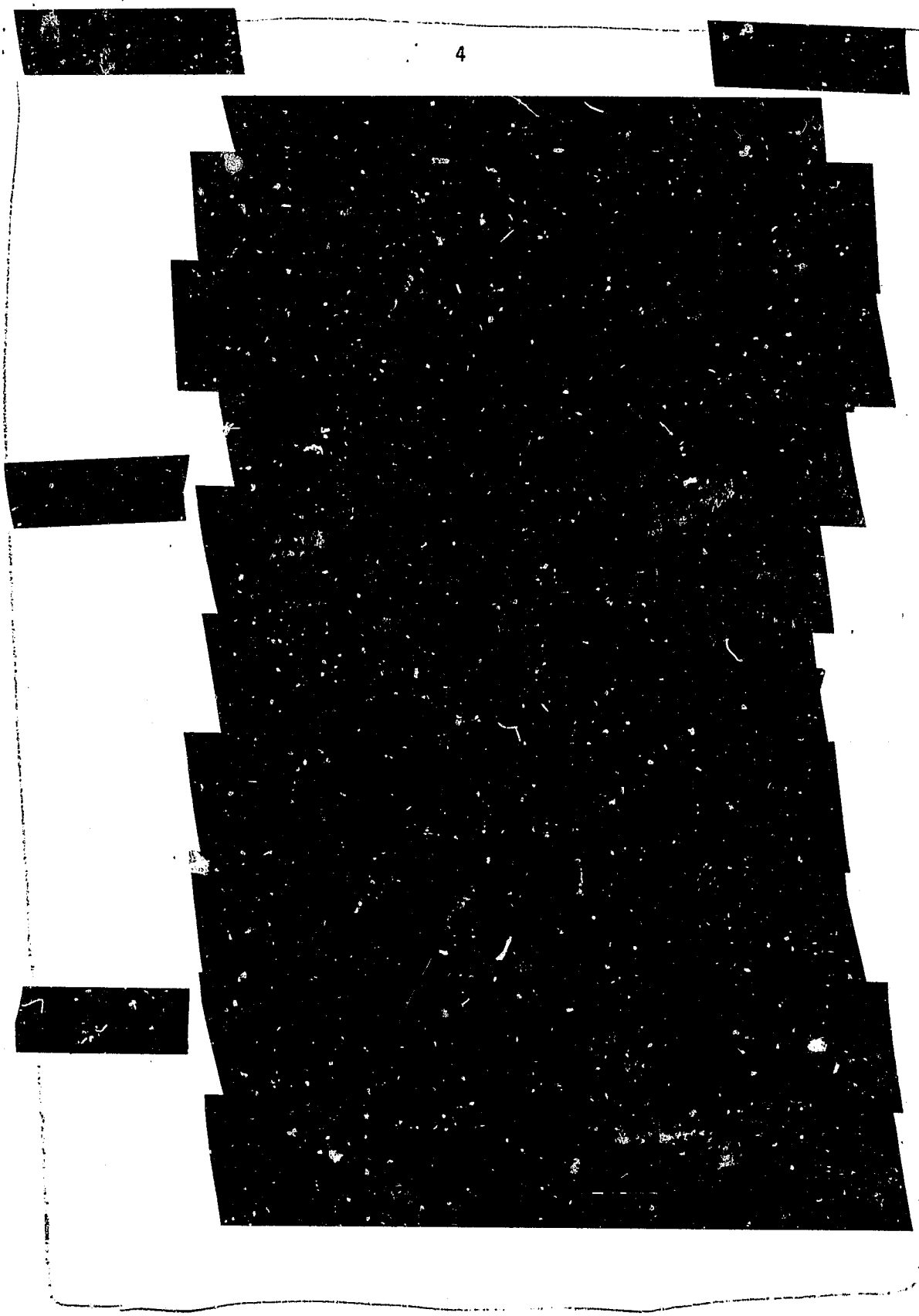

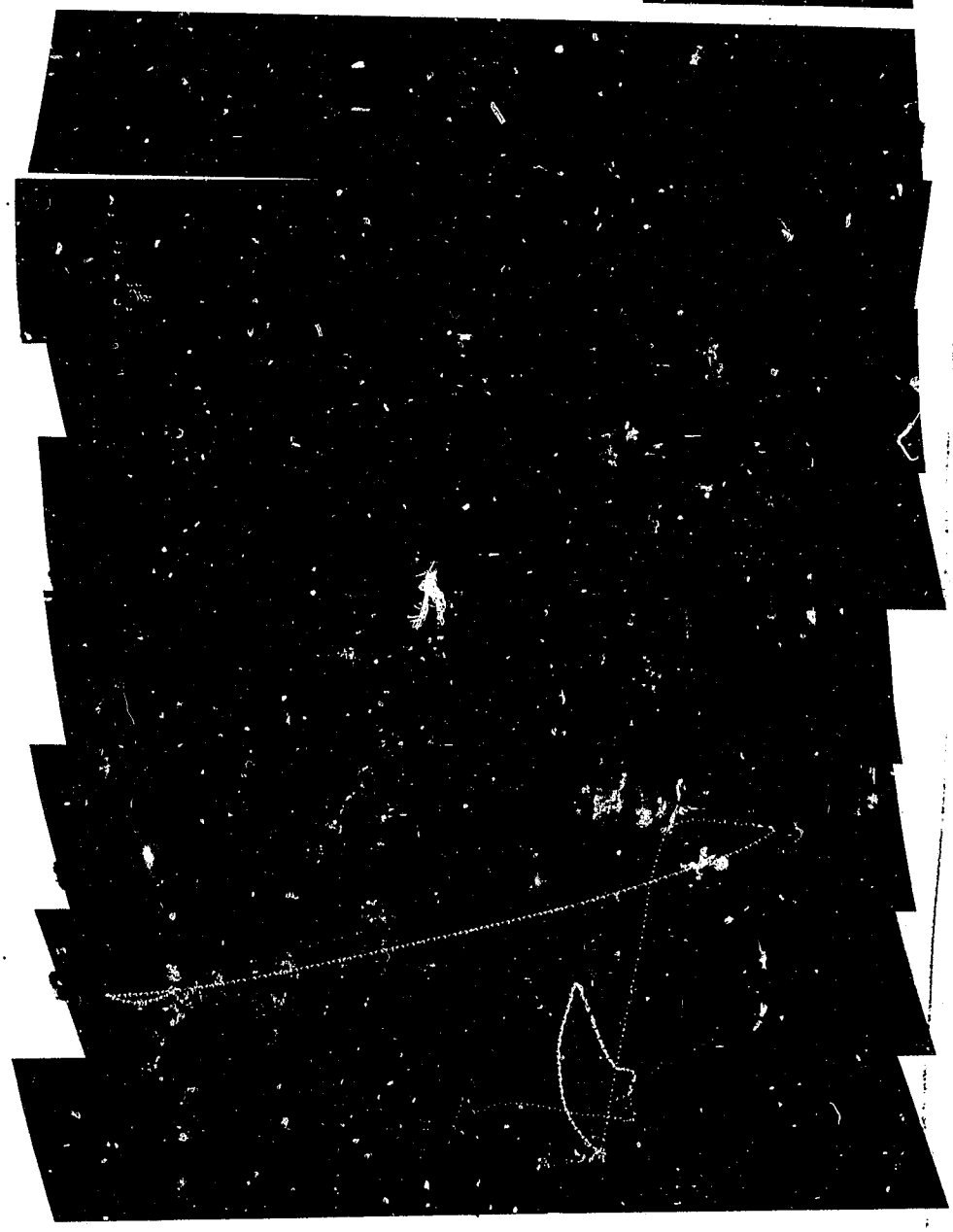

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